

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J
1201 TEXAS AVENUE
VERNONIA OR 97064

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 13, 2020

- 1.0 CALL TO ORDER:** A Regular Meeting of the Directors of Administrative School District 47J, Columbia County, Oregon was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Stacey Pelster. **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**
- Board Present:** Melissa Zavales, Stacey Pelster, Susan Wagner, Jeana Gump, Steve Whiteman, and Brittanie Roberts. Greg Kintz arrived at 6:07 p.m. **BOARD PRESENT**
- Board Absent:** None **BOARD ABSENT**
- Staff Present:** Aaron Miller, Superintendent; Nate Underwood, Middle/High School Principal; Michelle Eagleson, Elementary Principal; Marie Knight, Business Manager; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; Juliet Safier, Kendra Schlegel, Ashely Ward, and Justin Ward Teachers; Abbie Hanson, School Resource Officer, and Jamie Hamsa, Behavioral Health Director. **STAFF PRESENT**
- Visitors Present:** Scott Laird, Kale Sullivan, and Lyness Ota **VISITORS PRESENT**
- 1.1** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 1.2 School Board Recognition:** Aaron Miller thanked the board for their dedication, service and time serving on the Board. He handed out certificates of appreciation. Board members were presented goodies by Leadership. An appreciation poster, created by Mrs. Campbell and Ms. Spiesschaert students, was displayed.
- 2.0 AGENDA REVIEW:** Item 3.2.1 was removed and postponed until next month due to Mrs. Wilcoxon not able to attend the meeting. Item 11.0 was removed. Renewals and non-renewals of teacher contracts will take place at the March board meeting. **AGENDA REVIEW**
- Stacey Pelster moved to approve the agenda as amended. Brittanie Roberts seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- 3.0 SHOWCASING OF SCHOOLS:** **SHOWCASING OF SCHOOLS**
- 3.1 Student Reports:** VHS Leadership students Kale Sullivan and Lyness Ota thanked the Board and highlighted the following: **STUDENT REPORTS**
- VHS Winter Formal was held at Cedar Ridge and was well attended.
 - New semester has started and the Welding Shop is open. Students are excited to begin welding.
 - At the last Academic Assembly 98 VHS students earned recognition for achieving a 3.0 G.P.A. or higher. 90% of Freshman are on track to graduate.
 - On Feb. 25th 9th-11th grade students will have the opportunity to take the pre ACT or PSAT exams.
 - National Honor Society is sponsoring a blood drive on St. Patrick's Day.
 - Classroom highlights were shared for teachers Bunke, Myers, Bae, Keister, as well as the Leadership class.
- 3.2 Principal Reports:** **PRINCIPAL REPORTS**
- Mr. Underwood shared that the 9th On Track team is working hard to support 9th grade students. The team has a designated person as a graduation coach, they are making phone calls, offering academic probation study hall, conducting home visits, and holding empathy interviews with students. They have made some gains. After first semester 90% of the Freshman class did not fail a class and are on track to graduate. The team is also working to change the culture that D's are not okay. The hope is to move all D's to C's.

Ms. Safier interjected that she looks at the differences from now and in the past. There was a much higher rate of students failing classes during their Freshman year in previous years. She is happy with the results achieved from focusing on the Freshman class. She along with Mr. Blair are teaching skills of how to be a high school student and how to get work done. During a recent Professional Development training, teachers of 9th grade students worked together on how they can be of help to struggling students.

- Mrs. Eagleson reported that the elementary staff, during the month of January, focused on reading with the new curriculum. Once a month our staff receives on the spot coaching and support. This month staff will participate in intervention review meetings to look at all students. Reading accuracy has been down in the past but it is currently going up and accuracy is improving.

Kendra Schlegel, Title I, shared that overall student reading growth is trending up. DIBELS testing for Winter is complete. The testing results have improved from Fall to Winter as follows: Students at the Intensive level (significantly behind) is down to 32% from 38%. Strategic level students (slightly behind, needing some assistance) increased to 14% from 12% which is due to Intensive level students moving up. Core students (reading at grade level) is at 54% up from 50%. Teachers continue to focus on phonics and accuracy, and giving all students equitable access to learning.

In Math, we have a consistent program (Engage NY) and results from Fall to Winter are as follows: Intensive level 25% to 27%, Strategic 23% to 20%, and Core 52% to 53%. Teachers will continue to ensure components of Engage NY are used with fidelity, provide multiple opportunities to practice and review skills and focus on a ratio of 5:1 positive to negative interactions with students.

3.3 Social Emotional Learning Coordinator Report: Jamie Hamsa, Behavioral Health Director of Wellness & Success, has been hired by Rainier School District but will spend two days a week in Vernonia. Her background is in mental health and addiction and was recently the managing director for the wrap-around system within the Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc. (GOBHI) organization. Her goal in Vernonia is to increase support in the area of social emotional awareness.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING COORDINATOR REPORT

3.4 Opportunity Room Report: Justin Ward this year has taken over the MS/HS Opportunity room. His goal is to create a calm environment, a quiet room for students to work, as well as provide a space for unregulated students to go. He is able to work with them one on one to get their work completed. With the completion of reflection forms, Mr. Ward is able to look for patterns in the behavior. He monitors attendance, calls parents, and is working to implement community service within the school in lieu of lunch detention. He is beginning to see acceptance by the students of his program.

OPPORTUNITY ROOM REPORT

4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

5.0 BUSINESS REPORTS:

5.1 Superintendent Report: Mr. Miller highlighted his report with the following:

- A hand out was shared showing the decrease in the K-12 building's electricity usage since October when Bond funded LED lights were installed. Due to the addition of a second classroom of students at Mist that building is not showing a decrease.
- Policy Committee – hopes to have drafts of policies for a first reading.
- Friday, March 13th, initially a snow make-up day will now be a school day due to missing school on January 14, 2020.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

5.2.1 Bond Update: Mr. Miller updated the board on the following projects:
Metal Shop: Classes began at the end of January. Students are currently learning safety and cleaning equipment. Steve Whiteman asked if there were overages with this project. Yes, according to Mr. Miller, there were significant overages in electrical work.

BOND PROJECTS UPDATE

Security Cameras: New cameras have been purchased to replace the current cameras located inside the building and at all exterior exiting locations. Once installed they will connect to the online software to monitor. The District plans to purchase additional cameras for other drop sites that did not receive cameras with the initial construction of the building. Several of these camera sites will take longer to install, as electrical work is required first. Monitoring stations will be in each of the offices and visible to students.

Art Room: Five different companies attended the pre-bid meeting today. Bids are due next Wednesday. Aaron Miller shared that there will likely be potential overages with this project as well due to construction costs, unforeseen issues, etc. Susan Wagner expressed her concern with Mr. Miller's statement. The District's project manager should be monitoring more closely to avoid any overages.

5.2.2 Student Success Act (SSA) and the Student Investment Act- (SIA) Community Engagement Update: Mr. Miller shared that there will be a meeting tomorrow to go over community input received from meetings & surveys as well as student data from surveys. The NWRES D will conduct the meeting and lead the process of determining a list of priorities. A rough draft of the plan should be ready for the March board meeting. The Board needs to review and approve this plan before the deadline in April. Mr. Miller indicated he will share results with the board as soon as it has been shared with the Community group. He feels it has been a good process and feels consistency between the priorities of community and staff.

STUDENT SUCCESS ACT
AND STUDENT
INVESTMENT ACT
UPDATE

5.2 Financial Report: Marie Knight presented the financial report. She has received an updated estimate for the State School Fund (SSF). This was very close to what was there previously. With the slight adjustment to the SSF, the ending fund balance is around \$400,000. There were no questions for the Board.

FINANCIAL REPORT

5.2.1 Budget Committee Calendar: Marie Knight presented a draft Budget Committee Calendar and stated that it must have Board approval. This year's calendar, due to comments from last year's committee, includes two weeks between the first and second committee meeting. Her plan is to email out the proposed budget document to the committee one week prior to the first meeting. There are vacancies on the Budget Committee. Please refer anyone interested to Barb Carr or Marie Knight at the District Office.

BUDGET COMMITTEE
CALENDAR SHARED

5.3 Maintenance Report: Mr. Brown's Maintenance Report was reviewed. There were a couple questions from the Board regarding the repairs to the wall in the focus room and pesticide training. Mr. Miller addressed these questions.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

5.4 School Resource Officer Report (SRO): Officer Abbie Hanson shared with the Board her recent involvement at the school:

SCHOOL RESOURCE
OFFICER REPORT

- Attended Winter Formal and most home sporting events
- Working on truancy with the HS Grad Coach, by calling students into the office to discuss why they are absent
- Attendance records for students are monitored. 43 Students with perfect attendance in the month of January received a badge on their locker.
- Working often with DHS cross reports. She makes contact with every one via phone or in person.
- Conducted a few criminal investigations both with instigators and victims.
- Received a few ride along requests
- Working with the school and Columbia Community Mental Health (CCMH) on mental health crisis issues.
- Dealt with a few runaway issues
- Working to put on the Stop Kids Impaired Driving (SKID) program on April 14th.

Officer Hanson will meet with Administration and the Juvenile Probation Office to review what it looks like when a kid get into trouble. This will be helpful to increase transparency between all. She would like to present to staff the signs of impairment at an upcoming Professional Development.

5.4.1 Security / Front Door Lock System: Aaron Miller asked for a discussion with the Board on this topic. The District has not had any issues however many schools have locked security doors at their entrances. Mr. Miller is concerned with this being unwelcoming but he also doesn't want to minimize the safety of our students. At this time he does not have costs.

DISCUSSION ON
BUILDING SECURITY /
FRONT DOOR LOCK
SYSTEM

Jeana Gump shared that as a previous substitute teacher, most schools required her to be buzzed in. More interested in safety than whether or not we are welcoming. Stacey Pelster agreed with this.

Susan Wagner felt a thorough plan would need to be developed and discussed. What hours would this be in effect? She suggested creating another interior door at the front entrance so that people could get to the main office before having to be buzzed in.

Melissa Zavales stated she is still unsure on this topic. She feels it would take a lot of work to determine the process and she would like to have additional research and discussion.

Steve Whiteman agreed that more discussion and study is important. He inquired about the lower athletic entrance. Would this also be restricted? Mr. Miller shared at this point only the front main entrance is being discussed.

Brittanie Roberts asked if the doors can be automatically locked if a disgruntled person comes to the school? According to Mr. Miller, no. She shared that statistically shooters are individuals already known. These people would easily gain access through their normal routine. What do MS/HS students think?

Officer Hansen stated that making the personal decision if someone looks disgruntle to lock down the doors could be an issue. She is a big supporter of students being safe and feels it would be beneficial. If the front office recognizes the individual they would buzz them in, if not, someone would go to the door and greet them.

Mr. Miller thanked the group for the discussion.

5.5 NWRESD Annual Report & Local Service Plan: Aaron Miller shared the support we received from the NWRESD during the 2018-19 school year in the following areas:

- Administrative Services - \$3,058.04
- Business Services - \$56,650.00
- Instructional Services - \$3,457.04
- Special Education Services - \$235,378.50
- Technology Services - \$42,338.00

The total amount of \$340,881.58 includes the annual allotment of service credits.

Mr. Miller further went on to share the service plan from the NWRESD for Vernonia School District for the 2020-21 school year. The NWRESD has budgeted \$207,595.00 worth of service credits for our District to use towards services. This is an increase of \$10,485.00 over the 2019-20 school year. The Local Service Plan document requires Board approval.

NWRESD ANNUAL
REPORT & LOCAL
SERVICE PLAN
PRESENTED

6.0 BOARD REPORTS/BOARD DEVELOPMENT:

BOARD REPORTS /
BOARD DEVELOPMENT

6.1 Board Member Reflection:

Greg Kintz shared that he was recently in Washington DC on a partial scholarship from the Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA). Greg serves a Board member for them. He found the Equity Symposium very interesting. Equity in grading was informative. He chose to share by reading the mission of the National School Boards Association regarding equity." If you don't have time for the things that matter then stop doing the things that don't."

BOARD MEMBER
REFLECTION

- 6.2 **Oregon Promise Program / Training:** The application for Districts to complete is not yet available according to Greg Kintz. Requirements to participate in the Oregon Promise Program is Boards must complete 18 hours of training – 3 sessions of 6 hours each. This training would cost the District over \$2,000 but upon completion of the training OSBA would give the District \$5,000 in the form of student scholarships. Greg is continuing to research this program. OREGON PROMISE PROGRAM / TRAINING DISCUSSED
- 6.3 **Superintendent Search Development:** Brittanie Roberts stated that she would like to work on any areas of the process of replacing a Superintendent ahead of time. Discussion was held on what could be done early. Barb Carr will resend out the minutes from the Board Workshop. The topic of this workshop, conducted by OSBA, was the process of replacing a superintendent. SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH REPLACEMENT PLAN BRIEFLY DISCUSSED

Steve Whiteman left the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

7.0 OTHER INFORMATION and DISCUSSION

- 7.1 **Curls' School Bus Services Contract Extension Proposal and Review:** Aaron Miller shared the amended transportation contract. The main adjustments include extending the contract to 2024 and placing a freeze on the cost of living (CPI) for two years. CURLS SCHOOL BUS SERVICES CONTRACT EXTENTION PROPOSAL SHARED
- Susan Wagner asked for clarification on the amount noted for an overnight charge (meals/motel). Mr. Miller stated as this amount is generated by Curls' he would need to check with Rob Curl.
- 7.2 **Surplus Equipment:** Aaron Miller shared items the District no longer needs and would like deemed as surplus so they can be sold. There are two countertop cooking burners that were previously used in the old middle school building and a Hoyer lift (used to lift students safely). SURPLUS EQUIPMENT LIST SHARED
- 7.3 **Superintendent Evaluation Timelines:** Discussion regarding the appropriate timeline for the Superintendent evaluation was held. It is more appropriate to conduct the Superintendent evaluation in conjunction with other licensed evaluations and before the start of the new fiscal year. The Board agreed to select a date for this at the next meeting. SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION TIMELINE DISCUSSED
- 7.4 **Student / Instructor Evaluations:** Brittanie Roberts brought forth the idea of students having the ability to evaluate their instructions and provide feedback on classroom management, content, and instruction. As a community college instructor she feels it has helped her to receive evaluations from her students. STUDENT / INSTRUCTOR EVALUATIONS PROPOSED

Aaron Miller stated he would need to have a conversation with union representation and determine if there are roadblocks or concerns from their perspective.

Juliet Safier shared her concerns about the intent and would need to discuss this topic more. She offered to visit with fellow teachers and report to the Board next month.

8.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 8.1 **Budget Calendar:** Stacey Pelster moved to approve the 2020-21 Budget Committee Calendar as presented. Jeana Gump seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. BUDGET COMMITTEE CALENDAR APPROVED
- 8.2 **Curls School Bus Services Contract:** Melissa Zavales moved to approve the amended Curls' School Bus Services Contract as presented and discussed. Stacey Pelster seconded the motion. CURLS SCHOOL BUS SERVICES CONTRACT AMENDED
- Susan Wagner stated she is in support of moving forward with this but wants an answer to her question regarding the overnight charge.
- Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.
- 8.3 **Surplus Equipment:** Brittanie Roberts moved to approve the Surplus Equipment List as presented. Melissa Zavales seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance. SURPLUS EQUIPMENT LIST APPROVED

8.4 NWRESD Local Service Plan 2020-21: Brittanie Roberts moved to approve the NWRESD Local Service Plan for 2020-21 as presented. Stacey Pelster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.

NWRESD LOCAL SERVICE PLAN APPROVED

9.0 MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE: Greg Kintz reminded the Board to keep the Board goals in mind for future board work.

BOARD PERFORMANCE

10.0 CONSENT AGENDA:

CONSENT AGENDA MINUTES APPROVED

10.1 Minutes of 01/09/20 Regular Meeting and the 01/11/20 Workshop

Stacey Pelster moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Jeana Gump seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with those in attendance.

11.0 Other Issues: Nothing noted.

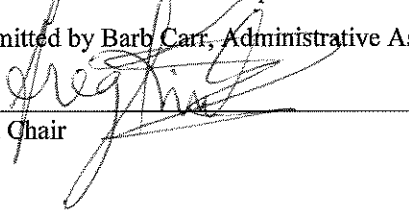
OTHER ISSUES

12.0 MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:44 p.m.

ADJOURNED

Submitted by Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant

Board Chair



District Clerk

